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**Volume 3, Number 4** **April 7, 1995**

**Minister Announces Computerized Service**

# Find Us On The Information Highway

The **Level News** and the **Water Level Bulletin** are now available on the Internet, the world-wide computer network that daily helps people exchange information around the globe.

"The Internet is an increasingly popular means of exchanging information; the number of users is growing daily. We see an opportunity to reach out to a growing audience while keeping our publication costs as low as possible," says Ralph Moulton of Environment Canada's Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Water Level Information & Geomatics Office. The two publications will continue to be produced on paper as well.

The effort by the Information & Geomatics Office, together with the Canadian Hydrographic Service, is one small part of a larger effort to make environmental information available to Internet users around the world.

**Copps Announces Green Lane**

On March 27, Sheila Copps, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of the Environment, announced Environment Canada's "Green Lane" on the information highway in Ontario. The Green Lane makes environmental information instantly accessible around the world, 24 hours a day.

A major component of this contribution is the Great Lakes Information Management Resource -- or GLIMR for short (*pronounced "glimmer"*). This constantly evolving service provides a virtual library of information about Environment Canada's Great Lakes programs, publications and databases. Here, you will find the *Level News* and the *Water Level Bulletin* along with a variety of other information on such things as Great Lakes water quality and water conservation.

From these points, you can explore environmental computer networks all over the world, including GLIMR's United States counterparts. GLIMR's user-friendly combination of text and graphics helps everyone from scientists to students find Great Lakes information.

**Instant Environmental Information**

"Our government is committed to ensuring a healthy environment for a healthy economy and healthy Canadians", said Minister Copps while

demonstrating GLIMR to high school students in Hamilton on March 27. "Our Green Lane on the information highway is an innovative way of instantly providing Canadians with information needed to make sound environmental decisions and take action."

Environment Canada's Ontario Green Lane also allows access to information on regional weather, climate, atmospheric research, and the National Water Research Institute.

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## Lake Level Update

Spring conditions are shaping up favourably on the Great Lakes, and the risk of flooding or erosion due to spring storms diminishes as summer approaches.

Lakes Superior and Ontario began April slightly below their seasonal averages, while Lakes Michigan-Huron, St. Clair and Erie were between 10 and 20 cm above their average levels for the time of year. This compares favourably with beginning-of-April levels in 1994.

**Water Supplies Lower Than Usual**

A light snow pack on the Great Lakes basin and below-average precipitation for the second month in a row resulted in water level increases that were slightly less than the usual seasonal rises for March. However, these increases are expected to continue for at least the next several weeks.

In all, the Great Lakes basin received 79% of its usual March precipitation. Lake Superior received 89%; Lakes Michigan-Huron, 84%, Lake Erie, 65%, and Lake Ontario 53%.

**Navigation Season Opens**

A light ice cover on the Great Lakes -St. Lawrence and a warming trend through March allowed the St. Lawrence Seaway to open a week early on March 24.

**Board of Control To Meet Public**

The International St. Lawrence River Board of Control will host a meeting with the public at 7 p.m., Monday, May 15, at Sarto Desnoyers Community Centre, 1335 Lakeshore Road, Dorval, Quebec.

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## Name Change

You may have noticed that the name of our office has changed. What used to be the **Great Lakes Water Level Communication Centre** is now the **Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Water Level Information & Geomatics Office** *(Information & Geomatics Office for short).*

The name change represents an amalgamation of two services offered from Environment Canada 's Burlington location: The water level information service, and the geographic information systems (GIS) service. The term "geomatics" in the new name refers to computerized systems that make use of

geographic information. This includes the GLIMR project, which is led by the geomatics group.

## Info Source

The Information & Geomatics Office continues to specialize in Great Lakes-St. Lawrence water levels and flows, as well as geographic information about the basin and its shorelines. We also stock publications on other Great Lakes-St. Lawrence topics and can help locate other sources of information. The addition of a public access terminal for GLIMR and the World-Wide Web further enhances this service. So, call , write or drop in!

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